

MINUTES
Underhill Conservation Commission
September 10, 2018
Underhill Town Hall

Present: Karen McKnight, Daphne Tanis, Nancy McRae, Amy Golodetz, Dan Steinbauer, Laurie Graham

Absent: Betsy Chapek, Pat Lamphere, Peter Hiskes

Guest: Ethan Tapper, Chittenden County Forester, Steven Webster

Crane Brook Informal Discussion Attendees Signed In: Kurt Johnson, Ethan Tapper, Dan Lee, Carla Hochschild, Chris Gluck, Donna Johnson, Seth Friedman, Caroline Bennett, Peter Bennett, Walt Tanis, Marcy Gibson, Barb Mulhern, Mary Jo Berube, Sandy Murphy, Brian Smith, Stacy Turkos, Dave Miller, Steve Webster, Jennifer Silpe, Eliza Kramer, Pat Sabalis, Penny Miller, Mim Pendleton, Kevin Gibson, Nancy Pecham, Sandra Costes

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Karen welcomed all and introduced agenda. Karen explained that the we intend to follow *Roberts Meeting Rules* during the public discussion and asked people to be respectful.

Public Comment: Mim Pendleton commented that Glyphosate is a legal chemical in use today and that it is difficult to eradicate Japanese Knot Weed. She also acknowledged the efforts of the UCC.

Crane Brook Public Informational Discussion

Between 25 to 30 community members were present at the public informational discussion, lasting approximately 53 minutes. Ethan Tapper, the Chittenden County Forester, opened the discussion, sharing his experiences surveying the Crane Brook Conservation District and working with the Underhill Conservation Commission. Approximately 15 community members spoke, sharing their thoughts about Japanese Knotweed management and Ethan Tapper responded, citing history, quoting scientific facts and explaining successful methods for Japanese Knotweed eradication.

General census is Japanese Knotweed is invasive and will significantly harm Crane Brook watershed and riparian area if left unchecked.

Several citizens spoke, asked questions; some in favor of use of chemicals to control Japanese Knotweed and some not. Then the discussion led to employing manual methods; cutting every two (2) weeks during growing season.

During UCC member debrief, it was proposed a task-force of community volunteers be formed to manually control JKW and other invasive species on the Crane Brook Conservation District and within the community of Underhill.

UCC Business Discussion:

UCC Action Plan

- A. Fall Education Sessions – Forrest Hammond – possible dates
- B. Workday Planning – CBCD Work Party, Saturday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m.
- C. Trails and Signage- Nancy showed examples of trail direction signs

Approval of August 13, 2018 Minutes – minutes were not reviewed or approved.

Underhill Town Planning

Karen reminded UCC members that we are invited to attend the Town Plan Planning Commission meeting on November 8, 2018. UCC members briefly discussed the Town Plan UCC tasks depicted in report. Members are asked to review activities and tasks.

Adjournment: The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 8, 2018, 6:30 p.m., Underhill Town Hall

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